

POWDER DELIVERY SYSTEM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A powder delivery system for a laser-based additive manufacturing process includes a hopper adapted to contain a powder and continuously feed the powder through an output of the hopper, a rotatable disk having a top surface that is substantially flat, the top surface adapted to receive the powder continuously fed through the output of the hopper, the top surface being disposed below the output of the hopper by a prescribed gap, and a vacuum powder removal device operable to remove the powder from the top surface via a vacuum.